



NEWS RELEASE

City Manager's Office

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For Immediate Release

Saturday, Sept. 2, 2017

Lake Jackson, Texas

**City of Lake Jackson
Tropical Storm Harvey/Brazos River Flood
Weather Update
Sept. 2, 2017 - 9 a.m.**

An additional mandatory evacuation was called last night, this time for Dewberry Dr., Dewberry Ct., and Strawberry Dr. All of the mandatory evacuations are adjacent subdivisions on the north side of the lake, Lake Jackson. Flood waters that have been coming from the west through Sugar Mill, Riggs Oaks, Buffalo Camp Bayou is something we have not seen in Lake Jackson. The first area hard hit in these mandatory evacuation zones was Jackson Oaks II (Spanish Oaks Circle area). Crews attempted to build a sand bag levee, block drainage inlets and set up pumping operations. This operation was called off when the safety of employees and volunteers was compromised.

As water continues to spread east in that area, Dewberry, Strawberry would be next in line. Flooding in this area has not occurred in the previous river floods, so we are unsure how far east this flood water will reach. So out of an abundance of cautions we called a mandatory evacuation for this area.

Crews and volunteers worked most of the night placing sandbags along the shoulder of FM2004 to a 24 inch height to prevent the overflow of the Bastrop Bayou across FM2004 and into Northeast Lake Jackson.

A great thanks goes to our employees, VDD personnel, our Volunteer Fire Department, Clute Volunteer Fire Department and a large number of civilian volunteers for working hard in the Jackson Oaks (Spanish Oaks Circle) subdivision; along FM 2004; and, at the city service center bagging sand. We are humbled by the tremendous outpouring of assistance we are receiving.

We are hopeful that we are at the height of this event. The problem is that this level of water will stay high for at least another week or more. Again, if you have water in your street now, you probably will have water in your street for a week or more.

The river has crested, but has stayed high (above flood stage) and this long, slow crest will continue for at least another 5 days (that is as far out as the river forecast goes out).

Oyster Creek at FM2004 (Dow Pump Station) was 17.90 feet at 6:00 a.m. today (9/2/17). Again, in 2016 we hit a peak of 17.62 and in 1992 we hit a peak of 19.77. We think the creek will get to about 18.50 to 19.00 feet, this will be well within its banks. But, we have learned that Oyster Creek is not the problem we are fighting; it is Bastrop Bayou on the north and northeast side of town, and on the west/northwest it is the Brazos overflow that reaches the Buffalo Camp area and moves east.

The Bastrop Bayou at SH288 is at 19.8 feet and at Old Angleton Road is at 15.25. These levels have remained constant for 24 hours.

Those areas experiencing flooding will continue to see this flooding for quite some time. Please do not drive through flooded roadways. If you are a resident of these areas, please avoid creating a wake.

We are asking for volunteers to fill sand bags. Volunteers can report to 101Canna Lane (next to the mulch site). Please and bring gloves and a shovel.

We have an extraordinary volunteer spirit in this town. We saw this last night. Let's keep it up.